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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): VAN DER POL, Adrianus, J., H., P. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL); GEERDINCK, Leonie, M. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL); VOSSSEN, Engelbertus, C., P., M. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL); SNIJKERS-HENDRICKX, Ingrid, J., M. [BE/BE]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL); BLASIG, Roland [DE/DE]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL); KRIJNEN, Simon [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL); VAN DEN

BAKEL, Ronald, A. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agent: VAN WERMESKERKEN, Stephanie, C.; Internationaal Octrooibureau B.V., Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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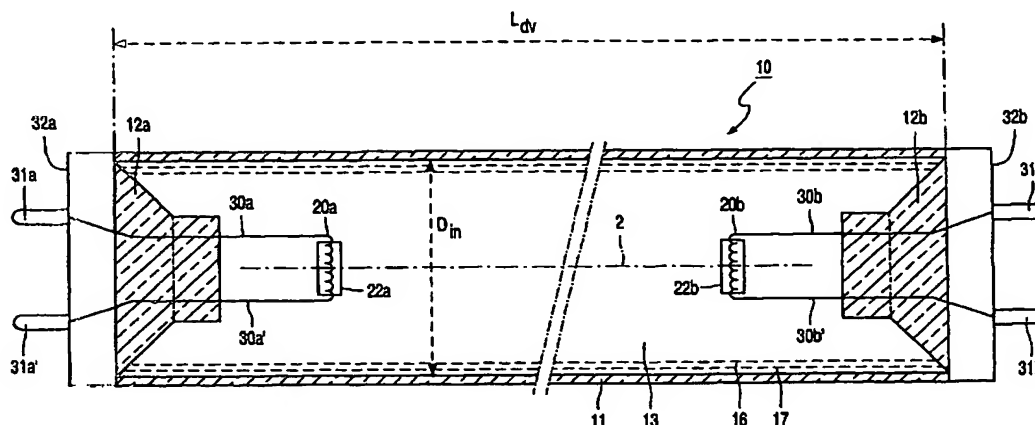
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(54) Title: LOW-PRESSURE MERCURY VAPOR DISCHARGE LAMP

(57) Abstract: Low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp has an at least partly substantially cylindrical discharge vessel (10) with a length  $L_{dv}$  and with an internal diameter  $D_{in}$ . The discharge vessel (10) encloses, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with a inert gas mixture and with mercury. The discharge vessel (10) comprises discharge means (electrodes 20a; 20b) for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13). According to the invention, the ratio of the weight of mercury mHg in the discharge vessel (10) to the product of the internal diameter  $D_{in}$  and the length of the discharge vessel  $L_{dv}$  is given by the relation: wherein  $C < 0.01$  (g/mm<sup>2</sup>). Preferably,  $0.0005 < C < 0.005$  (g/mm<sup>2</sup>). Preferably, the discharge vessel (10) contains less than 0.1 mg mercury. The discharge lamp according to the invention operates under unsaturated mercury conditions.